

TO THE

*Right Honourable, The Lord Mayor, Court of Aldermen, and Commonalty of
the City of London, in Common Council Assembled.*

Reasons humbly offered against the OLD LIGHTS, called
CONVEX-LIGHTS.

- I. **T**HAT the Partners of the said Lights, have as much as in them lies endeavoured to break in upon the Rights, Privileges, and Ancient Customs of the City of *London*, as is most evident by their Proceedings in the last Sessions of Parliament; several of the Honourable Court of Aldermen and Commons being daily obliged to attend the Parliament, and put the City to no small Charge to oppose their Design: It is humbly conceived such Practices ought not to be Encouraged either in the City, or Liberties thereto belonging.
- II. These Lights do not give that Satisfaction as was expected, neither can it reasonably be thought the City will be content to take the same, when much better Light may be had at as cheap a Rate, and greater Advantage to the Orphans: It's undeniable, that the said Lights now generally used in *London* give a very Blearing Light, unpleasant and hurtful to the Sight, and are attended with so many Darks and Shades, that most People complain thereof. But besides, the pretended Patentees very ill manage the lighting of the Streets, some Nights not being Lighted at all, which ought to be Lighted, nor have they Lighted the number of Lights they are obliged by their Leases, which things considered may justly occasion Complaint.
- III. The Patentees of the Old Lights propose to give the City of *London* a considerable Sum of Money yearly for the Benefit of the Orphans (altho' much less then is offered by the Proprietors of a better Light) but this Sum they propose not to pay, but upon such Conditions and Ties upon the Citizens as may in all probability make them very uneasy under it; which Proposals when well considered by this Court will not appear to be valuable (as is pretended). And on the contrary, the Proprietors of the *Light-Royal* desire no Penalties, but at all times shall be content to take such Measures as this Honourable Court shall think most Adviseable, both for the Benefit of the Orphans, and the Ease and Quiet of the Citizens.
- IV. It highly concerns the Patentees to make what Interest they can to promote the Old Lights but it would be much more commendable to promote their Lights without casting a Reproach upon a much better Light, and industriously spreading about the Town, *That the Glasses of the Light-Royal will all Crack and Break with the Heat and the Frost*, desiring those they Insinuate this Notion into, but to go into *Cornhill* and the *Exchange*, and there they will see what is or has been so affirmed by them to be true: It must be allowed, that many of the Glasses in *Cornhill* were Cracked and Broke, but in truth, neither by Frost nor Heat. And it's hoped, the Patentees of the *Convex-Lights* know not how nor by what means they came Broke; but this may be affirmed, If they do not know, several of their chief Officers and Servants was often in the Company of those Persons that did break the Glasses with a great Steel Bow, such as they commonly kill Deer with, which Bow is now in the Custody of the Proprietors of the *Light-Royal*, and several of the Persons concerned are now Prosecuted at Law. It is a very mean Spirited Act to break the Glasses by such base ways, on purpose to bring an Odium on the Invention, and by that means to discourage Persons not to Buy off, or Deal with the Proprietors of the *Light-Royal*: But it also gives great Cause to suspect their Servants to be men of but bad Principles, to be acquainted with so base men as was employed to break the Lights, one of them being Committed since *Christmas* last by the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of *London*, to Prison, and since has often sworn, He will take the first Opportunity to fire his Lordships House. No Man can be safe if such Villains be not severely Punished, and such Instruments Detected; any Man may be shot Dead in the Street, and not known from whence it comes.
- V. The Patentees of the Old Lights cannot reasonably expect any Favour from this Honourable Court, when they have refused to obey the Orders of the Lord Mayor of *London*. On the Fourteenth day of *January* last, His Lordship was pleased to order the Proprietors of the *Light-Royal* to continue Lighting their Lights in *Cornhill* and the *Royal Exchange*, and that the Patentees of the *Convex Lights* do forbear to Light their Lamps untill further Order: Which Order was shewed to the Patentees, and a Copy thereof left with them, but they thought fit not to obey the same, but Lighted their Lights so long as they pleased, contrary to the said Order, and in Contempt thereof.

These Proceedings are humbly offered to the Consideration of this Honourable Court.

P O S T S C R I P T.

THere is a common Report, That a certain Gentleman has Proposals to offer for Lighting the City of *London*, and it's said, will engage to give much more yearly for the Benefit of the Orphans, then either the *Convex-Lights*, or the *Light-Royal*. The Question being asked what Lights he would set up, Answered, either the *Convex Lights* or the *Light-Royal*, which the City should best approve of: The Gentleman may be thought not to be in his Right Reason, publicly to tell the World that he would Wrong others of their Right, to do an Act of Charity to the Orphans, and certainly he must be void of all Modesty to apply himself to the City of *London* for an Agreement, when he declares he will make use of so unjust means to serve them, but wants Authority to enable him, and to Imbarque with him in his fraudulent Undertaking; which Proposal is in effect, no more than to Affront and Strain the Justice, Honour, and Reputation of the City of *London*: It might as reasonably be offered to pay the Orphans Debts, with the Properties of every Goldsmith in *Lombard-Street*, and as just a Proposal.